

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Hong Kong/China

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SUBJECT Wah Kiu Yat Po, Chinese  
Newspaper in Hong Kong

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1. Wah Kiu Yat Po, which has the largest circulation of the Chinese papers in Hong Kong, was founded in 1925 by CH'EN Wei-hsiu (陈维休), a small merchant with some knowledge of English. He specialized in extensive coverage of local news and also took some local and foreign news from the South China Morning Post through several members of the Post staff who also worked for Wah Kiu Yat Po. CH'EN was shrewd and successful in his management of the paper and built it up to the point where Post staff members reversed the earlier procedure and quoted from Wah Kiu Yat Po, giving full credit.

2. The paper has a circulation of about 50,000. Issues are 16 pages and contain considerable advertising. Since the paper makes good money, it does not depend on any outside financial backing.

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3. CH'EN continued to publish the Wah Kiu Yat Po during the [ ] occupation of Hong Kong and also made money in business with [ ] representatives. Although extreme Nationalist elements in Taiwan condemn CH'EN for these actions, he has received continuous support in Hong Kong and is highly respected by local officials.

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4. Since the war, the paper's policy has been favorable to the Nationalists, and it has frequently printed news not approved by the Communists. Two of its Canton correspondents and a messenger were imprisoned by the Communist authorities early in 1950, and its confidential radio broadcasting set in Canton was seized in July. The Wah Kiu Yat Po is not admitted to Taiwan, however, although it is not officially disapproved there.

5. In July 1950, CH'EN sent his son CH'EN Pao-sheng (岑霄生), manager of the paper, on a good will visit to Taipei to obtain permission for circulation in Taiwan. Young CH'EN was welcomed by high officials, but he was given two conditions for publication of the paper in Taiwan: That the masthead of the paper should carry the old calendar of the Republic of China instead of the standard calendar date, and that the paper should drop the New China News Agency. KAN Cho-ting (甘卓庭), managing editor of the paper, declared the terms unacceptable, on the grounds that the calendar is now standardized in

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all countries and must be consistent and that, although the Wah Kiu Yat Po has never carried NCNA items of purely propaganda interest, it does derive from NCNA some items of local interest, so that abandoning it would affect the Hong Kong circulation of the paper.

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